

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 05784 201846Z

41

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 EB-07 SAB-01 PM-04

NSC-05 USIE-00 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5183

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: GOP REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS

SUMMARY: MUTED COMMENT AND GENERAL COVERAGE AFFORDED  
TO REPORT OF GOP NEGOTIATING COMMISSION IN SEPTEMBER  
20 PAPERS GIVES NO INDICATION THAT GOP IS PREPARING  
TO DISPENSE WITH NEGOTIATIONS, END SUMMARY.

1. COVERAGE OF "REPORT BY THE NEGOTIATING", ISSUED BY  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IN SEPTEMBER 20  
PAPERS WAS EXTENSIVE, RATHER THAN SENSATIONAL (SEE  
USIS PANAMA 5782 FOR DETAILED MEDIA REACTION REPORT).  
WHILE NEWS ARTICLE COVERAGE WAS GENERALLY LIMITED TO  
REFERENCE TO TORRIJOS' REQUEST FOR THIS REPORT PUBLISHED  
LAST THURSDAY, SUB-HEADLINES AND DISPLAY GIVE AS MUCH  
PROMINENCE AS ANYTHING TO REPORT'S STATEMENT THAT DURING  
HIS LAST VISIT, BUNKER STATED THAT ALL US POSITIONS  
WERE NEGOTIABLE.

2. MUTED COMMENTARY SO FAR AVOIDS DISCUSSION OF  
SPECIFIC POINTS IN REPORT; RATHER IT IS PHILOSOPHICAL  
DISCOURSE ON MERITS OF THIS GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH OF  
CONSULTING FULLY WITH PEOPLE ON ALL PROBLEMS ("MATUTINO"),  
OR COMMENTARY ON WHAT IS REGARDED AS A GENERALLY  
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PAGE 02 PANAMA 05784 201846Z

INTRANSIGENT US ATTITUDE CALCULATED TO PROVOKE REACTION

AMONG PANAMANIAN PEOPLE WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY ANY US REACTION AGAINST PANAMA ("CRITICA"). NOTEWORTHY POINT IN LATTER TYPE OF COMMENTARY BY EDITORIALISTS AND COLUMNISTS IS THAT THEIR CONCLUSIONS ARE EXHORTATIONS FOR SOLIDARITY, BUT ALSO FOR AVOIDANCE OF PRECIPITATE ACTION; EVEN IN AGREEING WITH TACK RESPONSE TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ORLANDO STATEMENTS, NO ONE HAS GONE SO FAR AS TO SUGGEST THAT NEGOTIATION HAS FAILED TO PRODUCE TREATY TO WHICH COUNTRY ASPIRES. PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT IS FACT THAT THIS IS GENERAL LINE TAKEN EVEN BY INFLUENTIAL "CRITIICA" COLUMNIST CAMILIO PEREZ ON BOTH SEPTEMBER 19 (FULL TEXT FBIS PANAMA 200148Y) AND SEPTEMBER 20; PEREZ ATTRIBUTES SECRETARY' ORLANDO STATEMENTS TO US DOMESTIC POLITICS, AND TODAY CONCLUDES: "LET US INSIST ON SOLIDARITY AND LET US AVOID ACTS OF VIOLENCE."

3. WE KNOW OF NO COVERAGE OR COMMENT ON BROADCAST MEDIA AS YET. TEXT OF GOP COMMUNIQUE AND OF COMMENTARY WILL BE CARRIED DURING COURSE OF DAY BY FBIS/PANAMA.

4. COMMENT: COVERAGE THIS MORNING, AND WAY GOP REPORT EMERGED (SEPTTEL), GIVE NO HINT THAT GOP IS INTERESTED IN PREPARING GROUND FOR CESSATION OF NEGOTIATIONS. RATHER, STRESS IS LAID ON "IF" IN TACK'S STATEMENT--OTHER OPTIONS WILL BE EXPLORED "IF" NEGOTIATIONS FAIL TO PRODUCE SATISFACTORY NEW TREATY; MEANWHILE, PEOPLE ARE URGED TO REMAIN CALM, AVOID PROVOCATIONS AND ACCEPT FACT THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE LONG AND DIFFICULT PROCESS. END COMMENT.  
JORDEN

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